

## 1.0 Percent Participation Justification Form 2017–18

The *Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA)* requires each district and charter school to complete and submit a justification when it anticipates exceeding 1.0 percent of students assessed in a subject area with the NCEXTEND1 alternate assessment. Justifications from each district and charter school will be reviewed by the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction (NCDPI), and follow up actions will be determined based on the information found in the justification document. Staff from the Exceptional Children and Accountability Divisions in each district and charter school should collaborate to provide the following information on the justification document. Responses to numbers 1–4 are required; it is optional to include additional information (see page 3). This justification document will be publicly posted. As such, the document **must not contain any personally identifiable information**. If necessary, additional pages may be attached to this form.

1. Enter contact information for the primary district/charter school staff member responsible for overseeing the completion of the justification form.	
<b>3-Digit LEA/Charter Code:</b> 940	<b>District/Charter Name:</b> Washington County Schools
<b>Contact Name:</b> Felisha Daniels	<b>Contact Title:</b> Exceptional Children Coordinator
<b>Contact Phone No.:</b> (252) 793-5171	<b>Contact E-Mail:</b> fdaniels@wcsnc.org
2. Enter a description of how the district/charter school will assure that Individualized Education Program (IEP) teams are adhering to the eligibility criteria as outlined in the <i>Testing Students with Disabilities</i> publication when determining student eligibility for participation in the alternate assessment.	
<p>Washington County Schools has adhered to the eligibility criteria as outlined in the <i>Testing students with disabilities</i> publication when determining student eligibility for participation in the alternate assessment by:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Ensuring decisions are documented in a student's IEP at least 120 days prior to any testing.</li> <li>2.) IDEA mandates students with most significant cognitive disabilities are taught using the NC Extended Content Standards. According to ESSA, all students must be assessed on grade-level content. All Washington County students taking the NC Extend 1 Test in English Language Arts/Reading, Mathematics, and Science are taught the state-adopted NC Standard Course of Study using the NC Extended Content Standards.</li> <li>3.) All students in Washington County Schools who are taught using the NC Extended Content Standards are students with the most significant cognitive disabilities.</li> <li>4.) Eligibility determination/placement is based on classroom performance data, input from teachers, evaluation results of all required tests, and a completion of the Eligibility determination worksheet located in NCCECAS and on the Public Schools of North Carolina Exceptional Children's Page.</li> </ol>	
3. Enter a description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined and plans for how that disproportionality will be addressed.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status groups is defined:</li> </ul> <p>Washington County Schools description of how any disproportionality among race, gender, or socioeconomic status group is defined using the NC Department of Public Instructions: Over-representation of certain students by race/ethnicity for special education services; in more restrictive placement options; and/or removed from their educational placements due to disciplinary removals.</p>	

- Plans for how disproportionality will be addressed:

Washington County Schools will address disproportionality by continuously reviewing the Testing Accommodations Report provided by the Testing and Accountability Director. Also, by ensuring that our SAT process is being followed. Work with the district to provide teachers training that focuses on preventive methods that will assist to minimize referrals for sole behavioral that are not linked to cognitive deficits. To ensure during 3 year Reevaluations that the teachers are using appropriate data to support evaluations and a review of continuum.

4. Enter additional justification of variables not covered but deemed essential to understanding why the district/charter school has a higher rate of alternate assessment participation.

Students in Washington County following the North Carolina Extended Content Standards are taught using this curriculum because they are functioning a level significantly below that of their same age and grade peers; even with program modifications, adaptations, and accommodations. All students participating in the alternative assessment have IEPs and their continuum of alternative educational placement all state "Separate-39% or less of the day with nondisabled peers." These students are unable to participate in regular state and district assessments with or without accommodations due to their significant cognitive delays. They require extensive direct instruction and support in multiple settings to acquire, learn, and generalize academic and functional skills necessary in school. These students will require extensive ongoing support into adulthood. As stated previously, eligibility determination/placement is based on classroom performance data, input from teachers, evaluation results of all required tests, and a completion of the Eligibility determination worksheet located in NCCECAS and on the Public Schools of North Carolina Exceptional Children's Page.

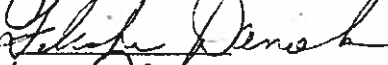
## Signatures

Superintendent/Charter School Director



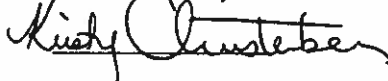
Date 5-2-18

Exceptional Children Director



Date 5.1.18

LEA/Charter Test Coordinator



Date 5-1-18

The completed justification form must be signed by the superintendent/charter school director, exceptional children's director, and testing coordinator. The form must be scanned and emailed to [alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov](mailto:alternateassessment@dpi.nc.gov) by **May 4, 2018**.

The NCDPI will notify districts/charter schools in writing if further information is needed and will include next steps. For questions, please contact your Exceptional Children Director or Regional Accountability Coordinator.

**Note:** See page 3 for additional information that can be included but is not required.